



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **WR-4**

January 9, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2756

Dear Supervisors:

**U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY STREAM GAGING AGREEMENT
AUTHORIZE EXTENSION OF THE JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Authorize the Director of Public Works or his designee to extend the Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to operate and maintain stream gaging stations within the County of Los Angeles through October 31, 2003, for an additional not to exceed fee of \$106,530 to be financed by the Fiscal Year 2002-03 Flood Control District budget.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

We are recommending that your Board authorize the Director of Public Works or his designee to extend the Joint Funding Agreement with USGS to operate and maintain stream gaging stations within the County of Los Angeles. The services will assist Public Works in its efforts to more efficiently operate the flood control and water conservation systems.

In order to improve the operation of its 65 stream gaging stations network, on September 1, 2001, Public Works entered into an Agreement with USGS to upgrade and operate nine stream gaging stations in the Antelope and Santa Clarita Valleys as a pilot project. Based on the results of this initial effort, Public Works recommends extending the original Agreement to continue the operation and maintenance by USGS. Public Works

will also transfer management of up to nine other stream gaging stations to USGS in the future. If the pilot program continues to be successful, Public Works may request your Board's authorization to enter into an expanded agreement covering all remaining stream gaging stations in the County.

Public Works and its predecessor, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, have operated stream gaging stations since the early 1900s. However, increased automation over the past 15 years has resulted in the need for a smaller workforce requiring specialized skills to operate the stations. It has become increasingly difficult to retain this expertise within Public Works. Therefore, to more effectively provide the needed expertise, Public Works proposes to have USGS manage its stream gaging stations. USGS is a recognized leader in the management of stream gaging stations. They currently provide this service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and to Santa Barbara, Ventura, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties in Southern California.

Having USGS manage its stream gaging stations will allow Public Works to focus its efforts on more effectively operating the flood control and water conservation systems, which will continue to expand in future years.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Goal of Organizational Effectiveness. USGS has the expertise to provide more effective management and operation of the stream gaging network for Public Works.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The recommended Agreement extension is for a not to exceed fee of \$106,530.

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. Financing for this extended Agreement is available from the Fiscal Year 2002-03 Flood Control District budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Joint Funding Agreement was previously approved as to form by County Counsel. According to Paragraph 2C of the Agreement, the Agreement may be extended for additional periods by the mutual consent of the parties.

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ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The work to be performed under this Agreement is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Section 15301 of the CEQA guidelines.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On July 26, 2001, your Board authorized entering into a Joint Funding Agreement with USGS to provide services for upgrading and operating nine stream gaging stations for a not to exceed fee of \$303,000. The terms of the Agreement allow the Agreement to be extended for additional periods by the mutual consent of the parties. For the next period, the USGS has proposed to provide additional services for a total not to exceed fee of \$106,530. The fee has been reviewed by Public Works and is considered reasonable for the scope of work.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no negative impact on current County services or projects during the performance of the recommended services.

CONCLUSION

Please return one approved copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

JP:jac
A:\UsgsAgreement.wpd

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel